



Department of Homeland Security Information Analysis and Infrastructure Protection Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 07 November 2003

Current Nationwide Threat Level is



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Daily Overview

- The Washington Post reports that The U.S. Postal Service shut down 11 postal facilities in the Washington, DC, area after preliminary tests indicated possible anthrax at a mail handling center. (See item [10](#))
- The General Accounting Office has published Report–GAO–04–231T: Homeland Security: Challenges in Achieving Interoperable Communications for First Responders. (See item [17](#))
- Federal Computer Week reports that the House of Representatives approved a bill that would provide grants, planning and coordination to local 911 call centers needing equipment upgrades, infrastructure, and training. (See item [18](#))

DHS/IAIP Update Fast Jump

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Energy Sector

Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: Physical: ELEVATED, Cyber: ELEVATED

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) – <http://esisac.com>]

1. *November 05, Inland Valley Daily Bulletin (CA)* — Southern California Edison plans to ship nuclear waste to east coast site. Southern California Edison is planning to ship a defunct reactor containing about 10 tons of nuclear waste from its San Onofre power plant north of San Diego, CA, to a burial site on the East Coast. The 90–day, 15,500–mile voyage by barge would route the reactor — encapsulated in a heavy case of concrete and steel

bigger than a railroad car -- through international waters and around the tip of South America to a disposal site at Barnwell, SC. The plan has generated some concern from the Department of Transportation, which must grant the final permit before the voyage can begin. The federal agency has expressed safety concerns about what would be the longest journey for a piece of nuclear waste in U.S. history, and the U.S. State Department has been asked to review the case. The container will be moved by truck to a boat basin on the Camp Pendleton Marine Corps base 17 miles away, where it will be strapped, welded and bolted to the deck of an oceangoing barge, the Paul Bunyan. Edison says the nonstop voyage around Cape Horn is the best option for moving the vessel to a dump for low-level radioactive waste.

Source: http://hsweb01.screamingmedia.com/PMA/pma_newsarticle1_krt.htm?SMDOCID=knightridder_2003_11_05_krtbn_0000-0367-IV-NUKE-WASTE&SMContentSet=0

2. *November 05, The Nation (Nairobi)* — **Kenya hit by power blackout. A nationwide power failure plunged Kenya into darkness for on Tuesday, November 4.** Some parts of the country had no power for as long as five hours following the morning outage which affected essential service providers such as hospitals. Also severely affected were buildings with elevators and no emergency back-up. **Kenya Power and Lighting Company (KPLC) spokesperson Migwi Theuri spoke of a fault in the national power grid. Initial investigations had ruled out sabotage, he said.** Theuri said KPLC's national control center in Nairobi acted swiftly and restoration of supply from the Seven Forks hydro power stations and Uganda Electricity Transmission Company started at 7:17 a.m., two and a half hours after the blackout occurred. He said supply to all customers in all parts of the country which rely on national grid had been restored by 9:40 a.m. At the port of Mombasa, the container terminal was the most affected by the outage. A Kenya Ports Authority (KPA) spokesperson said that most of the cranes which load and offload containers could not be used for the duration of the outage.

Source: <http://allafrica.com/stories/200311050058.html>

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Chemical Sector

Nothing to report.

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

3. *November 06, Federal Computer Week* — **Navy to use more simulation training. The Navy will invest in simulation software and applications in the future to help reduce the cost, time and strain of training its sailors,** service officials said. According to Navy Admiral Walter Doran, commander of the U.S. Pacific fleet, simulations can revolutionize how the Navy trains and reduce wear and tear on sailors and ships. "The Battle Force Tactical Training system is being used during in-port exercises to improve the training of strike group command and control elements, from simple reporting procedures to the current application of rules of engagement in a realistic environment," Doran said Wednesday, November 5. "Through

technology, our strike groups can practice and evaluate the tactics, techniques and procedures in port before getting underway," he continued. Doran said that traditionally the strike groups — groups of ships in an aircraft carrier group with a specific area of responsibility — have trained on their own, separate from other groups. **In February of next year, however, the Navy will conduct its first multiple strike group exercise while the ships are still in their respective ports. Three carrier strike groups — located in San Diego, CA, the Pacific Northwest, and Norfolk, VA — will train using a collaborative scenario.**

Source: <http://www.fcw.com/fcw/articles/2003/1103/web-navysim-11-06-03.asp>

4. *November 06, Associated Press* — **Last aircraft carrier sent home. The Nimitz became the last aircraft carrier sent home from Iraq when it pulled into port in the San Diego Bay on Wednesday, November 5.** The nuclear-powered carrier led a strike group that included the USS Princeton guided missile cruiser and the USS Bridge combat support ship. It joined five other carrier battle groups in the Persian Gulf to form an unprecedented floating air force within striking distance of Iraq. **During the deployment, aircraft from the Nimitz flew more than 6,500 missions. It was the carrier's first deployment since a major overhaul in 1997,** and its first since relocating to San Diego, CA, in 2001. Pilots and aircrews from two squadrons assigned to the Nimitz returned to North Island Naval Air Station on Tuesday November 4, while other squadrons flew to their homes in Lemoore, Point Mugu and Whidbey Island, WA.

Source: <http://www.newsday.com/news/nationworld/world/wire/sns-ap-ir-aq-nimitz-returns.0.325980.story?coll=sns-ap-world-headlines>

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Banking and Finance Sector

5. *November 05, Reuters* — **Brazil police bust gang of Internet hackers. Brazilian police arrested 18 Internet hackers on Wednesday, November 5, in a massive operation to dismantle a gang operating across four northern states,** authorities said. The operation, dubbed "Trojan Horse" and involving 205 officers, targeted a gang that stole more than \$10 million last year by breaking into banks and clients computers, federal police said in a statement. **Police said the gang had created Internet sites and programs capable of uncovering the passwords of clients who transferred money on the Web.** Once the gang obtained the passwords, funds were stolen electronically from accounts and transferred to other bank accounts held in the names of third persons.

Source: http://story.news.yahoo.com/news?tmpl=story&ncid=1212&e=1&u=/nm/20031105/wr_nm/crime_brazil_hackers_dc&sid=95573503

6. *November 05, finextra.com* — **WorldPay hit by online attack. WorldPay, an online payment service owned by the Royal Bank of Scotland, has been hit by a malicious 'denial-of-service' attack on its payment and administration networks.** WorldPay, which provides online payment administration services to 27,000 clients in more than 70 countries, has been bombarded with computer-generated requests since Tuesday, November 4. In a statement, **WorldPay says the attack was a coordinated effort by a third party to prevent customers from accessing the payment system and was identified within a minute of its occurrence.** WorldPay says it has resolved some of the problems caused, but is still trying to restore full services to customers.

Source: <http://www.finextra.com/fullstory.asp?id=10440>

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Transportation Sector

7. *November 06, Lansing State Journal (MI)* — **Amtrak weighs dropping Canada. Amtrak has proposed cutting Canada out of its Toronto-to-Chicago line to eliminate delays at the border and to help improve its service.** Amtrak officials told members of the state House and the Michigan Department of Transportation on Thursday, November 6, that starting the line in Port Huron, MI, and eliminating Canada from the route that runs through East Lansing, Mi, would improve arrival and departure times. If agreed upon, Amtrak might establish a bus service that connects at the Canadian border and takes passengers to Toronto. Amtrak added Toronto to the line that runs through East Lansing in the early 1980s. In 2002, more than 35,000 people rode the train to and from the Canadian border. However, **since September 11, security checks at customs have been causing long delays for riders, Amtrak officials said.**

Source: <http://www.detnews.com/2003/metro/0311/06/d10w-317277.htm>

8. *November 06, Washington Post* — **Air travelers should plan for long lines. Airline passengers traveling over the Thanksgiving and December holidays should expect long lines at security checkpoints,** a top Transportation Security Administration (TSA) official said on Wednesday, November 5. The TSA, which is in charge of security at the nation's airports, has reduced the number of passenger and baggage screeners by more than 7,600 nationwide since the beginning of the year, under pressure from Congress to become more efficient. **The staff cuts, coupled with an expected uptick in holiday travel, will probably mean significant delays going through the metal detectors. TSA Deputy Administrator Stephen J. McHale told a Senate panel yesterday that his agency is concerned about "increasing passenger flow" over the holidays,** as travelers take advantage of low fares. TSA spokesperson Nico Melendez said the agency has hired 2,700 part-time employees to help during the busiest times — early morning and midafternoon, particularly on Fridays, Sundays and Mondays. "We're banking on part-timers to alleviate stresses on the system," he said.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A5867-2003Nov5.html>

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Postal and Shipping Sector

9. *November 06, United Press International* — **UPS rolls out service to be delivered by USPS.** United Parcel Service (UPS) plans a new service in which thousands of packages would be delivered daily by regular letter carriers. **The new bare-bones service is called UPS Basic and is designed to steal some of the U.S. Post Service's (USPS) biggest customers, the Wall Street Journal said. UPS rival FedEx Corp. is expected to begin a similar test.** The move underscores a growing UPS campaign to recapture business lost during the past few years to the post office and smaller competitors that have pecked away at the company's longtime dominance in the \$25 billion-a-year U.S. ground-shipping industry. The postal service already makes residential deliveries for the former Airborne Inc. and other large mailers that bundle

their shipments together using companies known as consolidators.

Source: http://washingtontimes.com/upi-breaking/20031106-093547-3631_r.htm

10. *November 06, Washington Post* — **Anthrax scare shuts postal buildings. The U.S. Postal Service shut down 11 postal facilities in the Washington, DC, area late on Thursday after preliminary tests indicated possible anthrax at a U.S. Navy mail handling center, officials said.** The Navy closed the automated mail handling operation at its naval air station in Washington on Thursday to run additional tests after sensors detected traces of a substance that could be anthrax, a Navy spokeswoman said. The substance was identified late on Wednesday by equipment that routinely samples the air in the facility and preliminary tests indicated that it could possibly be anthrax, Lt. Corey Schultz said. More definitive testing was underway, she added. **"Almost all the mail that's processed there is irradiated, so it's likely the substance would be inactive," Schultz said.** As a precaution, the U.S. Postal Service closed 11 facilities that were serviced by the same contractor that transported mail to the Navy center, a spokesman said.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/ac2/wp-dyn/A10447-2003Nov6?language=printer>

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Agriculture Sector

11. *November 06, Associated Press* — **Senate approves ban on downed animals.** The Senate on Wednesday moved to ban the human consumption of downed animals, which are livestock too sick to stand or walk unassisted. **The House defeated a similar amendment. The two chambers must negotiate a common stance on the issue when they meet to come up with a final bill.** The U.S. Department of Agriculture estimates that 130,000 such downed animals are slaughtered every year. Farmers usually sell their sick and injured animals to meat renderers who grind them up into pet food and animal feed. **Beef producers have expressed concerns that prohibiting the sale of downed animals will result in their having to find other ways to dispose of sick livestock, most likely by burying them on their farms. They say this could threaten the health of other animals if the carcasses are infected with a contagious disease.**

Source: http://www.rockymountntelegram.com/news/content/news/ap_story.html/Washington/AP.V8404.AP-Downed-Animals.html

12. *November 06, Oster Dow Jones Commodity News* — **Imports of Canadian beef. U.S. imports of Canadian beef are now back up near the levels that had been coming across the border prior to the May 20 ban of cattle and beef. The U.S. implemented the ban after a single case of bovine spongiform encephalopathy was discovered in Canada.** After extensive traceback efforts and tests of additional cattle failed to turn up any more cases of the disease, the U.S. agreed to a partial lifting of the beef ban in August. Canadian boneless beef began moving across the border in September. Due to a lag time in reporting meat imports, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) latest import data only provide information as of the end of August. Since shipments did not begin moving across the border until about September 10, this represents about eight weeks of export data. The monthly averages for beef and beef variety meat imports from Canada for January through May were 29,853 tons for beef and about 1,548 tons for beef variety meats. The USDA's import data as of August 31 showed

shipments of Canadian beef at 149,324 tons, compared with 263,290 tons for the same period in 2002. **The U.S. ban on imports of live cattle remains in place.**

Source: http://www.agprofessional.com/show_story.php?id=22123

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Food Sector

Nothing to report.

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Water Sector

13. *November 06, Agence France Presse* — **Contaminated water in Manila. Five people have been killed and several hundred taken ill by contaminated tap water in Manila, Philippines, officials said Thursday.** Manila Mayor Lito Atienza put the death toll at five in what the Department of Health (DOH) described as an outbreak possibly caused by sewage seeping into the tap water system. **Health authorities and the private utility Maynilad Water Services Inc. suspect it could have been spread by people illegally tapping into Maynilad's water distribution system, Atienza said in a radio interview.** Reportedly, more than 300 people have been hospitalized since late last month. "It is an outbreak most probably due to sewage contamination of the water lines, but it has been already contained. The only affected area is Tondo. It has not spread to nearby areas," Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit said in a statement. He said only one case was reported by government hospitals on Tuesday.

Source: [http://www.sunstar.com.ph/static/net/2003/11/06/contaminated.tap.water.kills.five.in.manila.\(9.00.a.m.\).html](http://www.sunstar.com.ph/static/net/2003/11/06/contaminated.tap.water.kills.five.in.manila.(9.00.a.m.).html)

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Public Health Sector

14. *November 06, BBC News* — **Muscle could pose small CJD risk. Doctors know that, in theory, people may catch CJD if they have an operation using instruments from brain or tonsil surgery on an existing Creutzfeldt–Jakob Disease (CJD) patient. The latest results, from a Swiss team, raise the remote possibility of transmission after other operations.** However, experts say that this risk, if it exists, would be small in comparison. The researchers tested muscle tissue for signs of abnormal prions. They found traces of abnormal prion protein in muscles from eight of 32 patients. The research did not prove that this low level of abnormal prion contamination could in practice prove a threat to someone exposed to it. The Swiss researchers wrote: "Our findings arouse concern about the possibility of iatrogenic (caused by medical treatment) transmission of sporadic CJD." **Studies have suggested that even normally sterilized surgical instruments could harbor the abnormal prion protein, perhaps passing them on to infect the next patient."** There have been five documented cases world–wide of patients developing CJD following surgery with contaminated instruments.

Source: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/health/3246985.stm>

15. *November 04, New York Times* — **Hospitals seen as weakest in New York.** Hospitals in New York State are by far the nation's weakest financially, so weak that nearly half of them have a hard time raising the money needed to invest in renovated wards, new ambulances, and improved computer systems, according to a national analysis released last week. **Dividing all hospitals into three categories by their ability to raise cash, the report says that in 2001, 43 percent of New York's hospitals fell into the bottom group, with "limited access to capital," compared with 19 percent nationally.** The report, was done by the Healthcare Financial Management Association, a national health industry group, and GE Healthcare Financial Services. **Hospitals' ability to raise money outside of day-to-day operations has suffered lately. The report says the amount they raised fell from \$51.4 billion nationally in 2001 to \$36.5 billion in 2002.** But the decline, and the financial troubles underlying it, have not been evenly spread. The report says that over the last several years, hospitals in the top category slipped only slightly by most financial measures, while those in the bottom group lost ground at a much faster pace. **The number of hospitals nationwide in the "limited access" category rose from 11 percent in 1997 to 19 percent in 2001.** Hospitals around the country have been squeezed by insurance companies' and government health programs' efforts to cut costs.
Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/2003/11/04/nyregion/04HOSP.html>

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Government Sector

Nothing to report.

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Emergency Services Sector

16. *November 06, Firehouse.com* — **Trends and hazards in firefighter training. A technical special report on the risks of firefighting training and ways to reduce deaths and injuries has been released by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).** The report underscores the inherent danger of such training but reiterates the importance of experience gained in real, rather than closely controlled training fires. **"It's important that fire departments train firefighters in as close to actual conditions as possible while also protecting them in the process,"** said Michael D. Brown, Homeland Security Under Secretary for emergency preparedness and response. The report includes training recommendations. **It is increasingly important that firefighters receive training in fire behavior and extinguishment methods for different types of buildings. Modern protective equipment may make life-threatening fire conditions less obvious and firefighters must be trained to recognize the visual and physical clues to impending danger.** During training, a firefighter's physical stress level should be monitored continuously and departments should consider stronger physical screening programs and long-term health and wellness programs to reduce training-related heart attacks and strokes.
Source: <http://cms.firehouse.com/content/article/article.jsp?sectionId=46&id=21422>

17. *November 06, Government Accounting Office* — **Report-GAO-04-231T: Homeland**

Security: Challenges in Achieving Interoperable Communications for First Responders.

The inability of first responders— police officers, firemen, hazardous materials teams, emergency medical service personnel, and others — to communicate effectively with one another as needed during an emergency is a long-standing and widely recognized problem in many areas across the country. When first responders cannot communicate effectively as needed, it can literally cost lives — of both emergency responders and those they are trying to assist. At the request of the Chairman of the full committee, **GAO is examining the barriers to improved interoperability and the roles that federal, state, and local governments can play in improving wireless interoperability communications. Because GAO's work is ongoing, they are not yet making recommendations. However based on their work to date, they identify several major challenges federal, state, and local governments must address.** Effectively addressing these challenges requires collaboration of all first responders and all levels of government. Failure to do so risks spending funds ineffectively and creating new problems in the attempt to resolve existing ones. Highlights:

<http://www.gao.gov/highlights/d04231thigh.pdf>

Source: <http://www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-04-231T>

18. *November 05, Federal Computer Week* — **House passes E911 bill. The House of Representatives approved a bill Tuesday, November 4, that would provide grants, planning and coordination to local 911 call centers needing equipment upgrades, infrastructure and training.** House approval of the E911 Implementation Act of 2003 is a major victory for advocates who have been pressing the federal government to accelerate implementation of better technology and training at 911 call centers, also known as Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs). A growing problem has been accurately locating wireless callers, who now constitute more than half of the country's 200 million 911 calls each year. **Although 37 percent of answering points can display a wireless caller's phone number, only 18 percent can also show a wireless phone's location.** The bill, H.R. 2898, establishes a joint federal office, the E-911 Implementation Coordination Office, between the Transportation and Commerce departments to provide coordination and communication among federal, state and local governments, emergency personnel, public safety groups, telecommunications carriers, and telecommunications equipment companies.

Source: <http://www.fcw.com/geb/articles/2003/1103/web-e911-11-05-03.asp>

19. *November 04, Government Computer News* — **Data sharing needs to begin before first response, officials say. For the National Guard Bureau, the ability to share data for disaster planning and first response has been hampered by a constant stream of hacker intrusions** on its unclassified networks over the past two years. The Guard currently handles the attacks by going from PC to PC to install patches. But this has been difficult to manage in an organization roughly the size of Texas, said Maureen Lischke, CIO for the National Guard Bureau. She and other government officials spoke about data sharing to support homeland security at an Industry Advisory Council event in Washington. Lischke said the Guard needs industry's help in plugging holes and ridding the bureau of "touch labor." **The federal government is still years away from true information sharing with state, local and regional agencies, said David Boyd, the Department of Homeland Security's deputy director of R&D and director of the Safecom program to provide wireless communications to federal, state and local first responders. Although cultural barriers represent the biggest hurdle, federal groups also need to think about sharing information before a major atrocity**

occurs, not after, Boyd said.

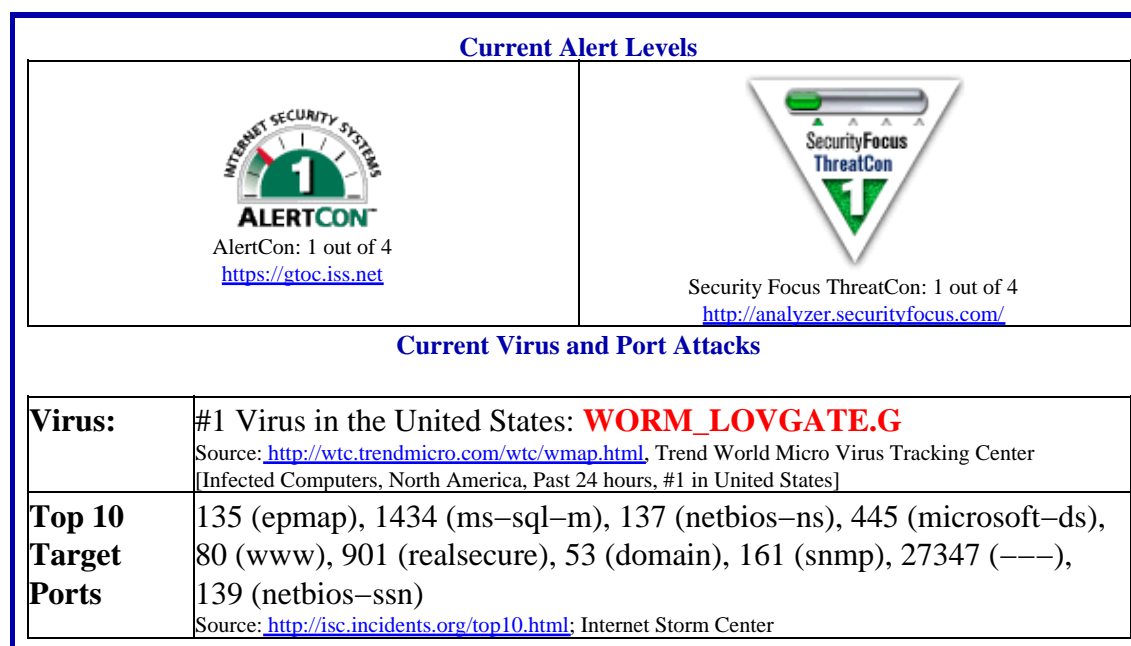
Source: http://www.gcn.com/vol1_no1/daily-updates/24059-1.html

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Information and Telecommunications Sector

20. *November 06, InternetNews.com* — **Weakness found in Wi-Fi security protocol.** Wireless security expert Robert Moskowitz has detected a glaring weakness in the interface design of a Wi-Fi Protected Access (WPA) protocol deployed in numerous Wireless LAN products. According to a research paper written by Moskowitz, **the weakness could allow intruders to crack poorly chosen passphrases via offline dictionary attacks.** The paper means that **Wi-Fi hardware products that ship with WPA might be less secure than the older Wireless Encryption Protocol (WEP), which it replaced in 2002.** The WPA standard was designed to improve upon the security features in wireless networks. The weakness only takes effect when short, text-based keys are used and does not reflect a fault in the WPA protocol. The weakness can be avoided if WLAN hardware manufacturers build units with the ability to generate random keys that can be copied and pasted across systems. Manufacturers can also restrict the ability to enter weak keys by requiring passphrases with numerous characters instead of words that can be found in the dictionary. Moskowitz warned that **dictionary based programs used to crack passwords are heavily used by criminal hackers.** The paper is available online: <http://wifinetnews.com/archives/002452.html>
Source: <http://www.atnewyork.com/news/article.php/3105271>

Internet Alert Dashboard



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General Sector

21. *November 06, Associated Press* — **Fifty-eight nations miss terror deadline. A UN Security Council committee named 58 countries on Wednesday, November 5, that failed to meet an October 31 deadline to submit reports on measures they are taking to stop supporting, financing and providing sanctuary to terrorists.** Almost all are developing nations in Africa, Asia and the Pacific islands. The committee is monitoring what all 191 UN member states are doing to implement a Security Council resolution adopted less than three weeks after the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on the United States. **The resolution required UN members to adopt legislation and take administrative measures and other steps to halt all support for terrorists.**

Source: <http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2003/11/05/world/main582105.s.html>

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DHS/IAIP Products & Contact Information

The Department of Homeland Security's Information Analysis and Infrastructure Protection (IAIP) serves as a national critical infrastructure threat assessment, warning, vulnerability entity. The IAIP provides a range of bulletins and advisories of interest to information system security and professionals and those involved in protecting public and private infrastructures. By visiting the IAIP web-site (<http://www.nipc.gov>), one can quickly access any of the following DHS/IAIP products:

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